

News and Views

Sir Robert Mond: Award of Messel Medal

THE Society of Chemical Industry has awarded its Messel Medal this year to Sir Robert Mond. This medal is awarded to those who have attained eminence in applied chemistry, and is given in alternate years. Sir Robert Mond has for many years been associated with prominent concerns in the chemical industry. He is a director of the International Nickel Co., the South Staffordshire Mond Gas Co., and the Mond Staffordshire Refinery Company, Ltd., and his directorships in the past have included those of the Mond Nickel Co., and Brunner Mond and Co. Sir Robert was born in Lancashire. He is the son of the great industrial chemist Dr. Ludwig Mond, and the award of the medal will be felt by many chemists to be not only an acknowledgment of Sir Robert Mond's own services to chemical industry in Great Britain, but also a reminder of the important part taken by the Mond family in the progress of industrial chemistry in Great Britain. Dr. Ludwig Mond, Sir Robert's father, was prominent in the early organisation of the Society of Chemical Industry, having been one of its first secretaries in 1881 and its president in 1888. Sir Robert was educated at Cheltenham, Cambridge, Zurich and Edinburgh, and worked for some time with Sir William Thomson, later Lord Kelvin. He was largely responsible for the planning and equipment of the Davy Faraday Laboratory at the Royal Institution. Sir Robert is also well known for his interest in Egyptology; and he is also chairman of the Norman Lockyer Observatory Corporation. He was knighted in 1931.

Exhibitions of Chinese Art

THE exhibition as a whole of the Eumorfopoulos Collection of objects of Chinese and Far Eastern art acquired for the nation, announced to take place in the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, will be declared open by the Chinese Ambassador on April 17. Not only will some of the pieces now be seen by the public for the first time; but also it is the last occasion on which it will be shown as a single collection. When this exhibition closes at the end of the coming summer, the exhibits will be divided between the Victoria and Albert and the British Museums, and certain of them will be allocated on loan to other museums. This exhibition will supplement the exhibition of Chinese art at the Royal Academy in several directions. The art of the Han and T'ang dynasties, for example, will be much more fully represented; and there will be an extensive series of the pottery burial figures of the Wei dynasty (A.D. 386-535). The Eumorfopoulos collection also affords opportunity for comparison, as it includes example of art from areas which did not come within the scope of the exhibition at Burlington House, such as the art of Korea, little known and not otherwise

well represented in Great Britain, and the art of the nomadic tribes of southern Siberia. A charge for admission of 1s. will be devoted to the fund for the purchase of the collection, of which at present only one half has been raised. An exhibition of Chinese art is also being held in the City Art Gallery, Manchester. It was opened by the Chinese Ambassador on April 3 and will be on view for a period of six weeks. It consists of some of the exhibits lent to the exhibition at Burlington House by British collectors, together with specimens from collections in Lancashire and Cheshire.

American Indians and the Land

EQUALLY with other citizens of the United States, the American Indian is benefiting under the 'New Deal'. An appropriation has been made to purchase for his benefit some of the land in Oklahoma now in the possession of the whites, which formerly belonged to Indian tribesmen. The prospects of the Indians have now much improved under the legislation promoted by the Hon. John Collier, Commissioner for Indian Affairs since 1932. He was largely responsible for the passing of the Wheeler-Howard Act in 1933, under the provisions of which an attempt is being made to promote the prosperity of the Indian on lines in accord with the tradition of tribal culture, and to revert, so far as is now possible, to the system of group tenure of land, which was broken up in the mistaken efforts of a previous generation to develop the Indian standard of life by individual grants of land. The provisions of the new legislation and its relation to existing conditions are summarised by Dr. Wilton Marion Krogman of the Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio (*Z. Rassenkunde*, 3, 1).

LAND may no longer be held in severalty by the Indian, but only through the tribe or group under the guardianship of the Federal Government, on a tenure which may vary in form. The sum of 2,000,000 dollars, together with such further sums as may accrue, has been set aside for land purchase, while a credit sum of 10,000,000 dollars has been set up, which is available for any Indian through a tribal corporation. The Indians, it is to be noted, are to be encouraged to retain their tribal culture though not in the "back to the blanket" sense and administration is to adapt itself to local variations in cultural pattern. It is estimated that between 1887, when they were settled on the reserve, and 1932, the Indians lost through alienation 90,000,000 acres of their grant of land. Of the remaining 47,000,000 acres one half is desert; and there are now 150,000 Indians who have no land. The popular conception that the Indian is a degenerate and disappearing race is entirely erroneous. In certain selected areas between 1905 and 1934, the Indian population rose from 61,146 to 78,139.